

Assembly Bill No. 1948

CHAPTER 736

An act relating to watersheds.

[Approved by Governor September 25, 2000. Filed
with Secretary of State September 27, 2000.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1948, Dickerson. Watersheds.

Existing law provides various mechanisms for funding the restoration, maintenance, and management of watersheds.

This bill would require the Secretary of the Resources Agency to compile a report detailing major funding sources made available for watershed projects within the state since 1995, including specified information concerning, among other things, funding sources, performance measures, and the management and administration of funds. The bill would require the secretary to update the report every 3 years. The bill would require the secretary to make the report and the updated reports available on the Internet and to provide copies of those reports to the Legislature and the Governor, as prescribed. The bill would provide that the bill shall become operative only if AB 2117 of the 1999–2000 Regular Session is enacted and becomes effective on or before January 1, 2001.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares the following:

(a) The protection of California's watersheds is of critical importance in securing the economic and environmental future of the state. Watersheds provide water, California's most valuable commodity, which in turn sustains the engine of the state's agricultural, urban, and rural economies.

(b) California should facilitate and coordinate voluntary local watershed management and rehabilitation efforts to assure the most beneficial use of existing funding programs available for the purposes of watershed planning. Funding mechanisms that maintain and protect these investments in the future should be assessed, reviewed, considered, and continued.

(c) Substantial funding for watershed management has been made available to entities within California through various initiatives and legislative actions, yet minimal oversight exists to ensure that priority projects are funded, monitored for effectiveness, if required to be monitored, and that entities are held accountable for the accomplishment of projects.

(d) Because there is no organized list of financial resources available, many entities find it difficult to identify and apply for grants or other funding sources for watershed management within California. A need exists for a centralized list and report of watershed management funding sources and a record of all federal, state, and private grants and of general obligation bond expenditures since 1995 documenting the entities that have received funds, the types of projects that have been funded, and an assessment whether watershed improvements were documented, if required to be documented. This report will provide a benchmark to assess whether there is a need to pursue additional funding sources for maintenance of past efforts and state watershed management and restoration needs for the future.

SEC. 2. (a) (1) The Secretary of the Resources Agency shall compile a report major funding sources made available for watershed projects in California since 1995. The report shall provide an analysis of major federal, state, and private grants and of general obligation bond expenditures since 1995, including the entities or types of entities that have received funds and the types of projects that have been funded, and an assessment regarding whether the results of the projects were quantified and documented, if those results were required to be documented. The analysis shall also include summaries of types of projects, recipients, performance measures and monitoring, if required, and recommended actions to improve the effectiveness of how watershed funds are administered, including identification of any funding gaps. The report shall also include all watershed management fund sources that are currently available to entities within California, along with a description of the process for applying for and the review of applications for grant or funding approval. To the extent feasible, the report shall also contain a list of individual project grant recipients, the project title, and the project location.

(2) The Secretary of the Resources Agency shall update the report described in paragraph (1) every three years.

(b) The completed report shall be available on the Internet and provided to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, the Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee, and the Governor not later than November 1, 2002. The updated reports shall be available on the Internet and provided to the committees described in this subdivision not later than November 1, 2005, and November 1 of every third year thereafter.

SEC. 3. This act shall become operative only if Assembly Bill 2117 of the 1999–2000 Regular Session is enacted and becomes effective on or before January 1, 2001.